

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application. Claim 10 is amended based on the description of original claim 1. New claims 19 to 25 are based on the original claims 2 to 7 and 9.

**Claim Rejections 35 USC § 102**

The amended claims are not anticipated by SU 1690365 (Khotimskii et al.), US 3,719,652 (Oberkirch et al.), and US 3,900,452, Valassori et al.

**Claim Rejections 35 USC § 103**

Claims 1-7 and 9 were rejected as obvious over Khotimskii et al. in view of Andes et al. (J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2002).

Khotimskii et al. does not disclose a catalyst in accordance with the amended claims.

Andes et al. disclose a trimerization catalyst comprising methyl lithium, t-butyl lithium, or n-butyl lithium and tantalum pentachloride. The turnovers listed in Table 1 ranges from 20 to 195 with respect to the catalysts disclosed by Khotimskii et al. The highest activity is observed with the experiment using dimethyl zinc and tantalum chloride (see entry 4, Table 1).

It has been shown in Table 2, page 14 and Table 3, page 16 of the present specification that the catalysts of the presently claimed invention are far superior to that of the catalyst of Andes et al. This is an unexpected result that would not have been predictable over the teachings of Khotimskii in combination of Andeas, and therefore, the present invention is not obvious.

**Conclusion**

For the above reasons, applicant believes the present application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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